

Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Ministerial Conference
13-15 November 2006 - Cotonou, Benin
Outline for Draft Communiqué and Action Plan

Draft Framework for Communiqué

A. Background

Ministerial-level representatives are expected to adopt (and possibly sign) a communiqué committing their respective countries to sustainable improvements in the maritime domain during the conference on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea (MSS-GoG) — scheduled for 13th to 15th November 2006 in Benin. The commitments in the communiqué will be linked to specific, time-bound actions, which will be supported by a broad range of stakeholders.

The communiqué would serve 3 main purposes: first, as a documented summary of sub-regional commitments; second, as a yardstick against which regional governments and stakeholders could measure progress; and, third, as a reference tool for strategy development. The main objectives of the MSS-GoG Ministerial communiqué are to:

- i. Clearly articulate sub-regional agreement on threats to maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.
- ii. Forge high-level consensus and political buy-in for Plan of Action.
- iii. Identify and support time-bound measures for improved maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.
- iv. Promote regional collaboration and coordinate the active participation of relevant regional institutions.
- v. Provide a justification and mechanism for coordinated and collaborative international assistance.

A draft outline for the communiqué and a framework for the implementation matrix follow.

B. Outline of the Communiqué

PREAMBLE

This introductory section will:

- Emphasize regional consensus regarding main MSS threats and vulnerabilities.
- Recognize the relationships between security, stability and economic development prospects.
- Highlight relationships between the attainment of improved management of maritime resources and Millennium Development Goals.
- Describe political commitment to take concrete steps to adopt and implement comprehensive national and regional strategies.

Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Ministerial Conference
13-15 November 2006 - Cotonou, Benin
Outline for Draft Communiqué and Action Plan

I. ESTABLISH AND FACILITATE POLITICAL WILL

This section will:

- Discuss the importance of informed and unwavering political will in the success of maritime safety and security strategies.
- Promote effective inter-agency collaboration.

II. IMPROVING MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS

This section will:

- Emphasize the importance of an appropriate information management system that would promote information sharing, and facilitate analysis.
- Define Maritime Domain Awareness as part of comprehensive national and regional maritime strategies.
- Outline importance of installing internationally-recognized surveillance systems (such as the Automatic Identification System) and discuss how such systems complement the broader strategy.

III. STRENGTHEN REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

This section will:

- Discuss the importance of a robust legislative framework, consistent with international standards (ratification of ISPS codes).
- Emphasize that good legislation needs to be bolstered by a capacity to enforce (apprehending, prosecuting and punishing criminals).
- Discuss the importance of harmonizing legislation in the GoG.

IV. ENHANCE REGIONAL COORDINATION

This section will:

- Highlight the potential benefits of regional coordination (e.g. economies of scale, and the collaborative nature of effective MSS)
- Identify ways that regional organizations could foster effective regional coordination.
- Stress the importance of strong and effective regional institutions.
- Disseminate best practices that enhance maritime safety and security.

V. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

This section will:

- Discuss the importance of public awareness in ensuring regional buy-in/ownership.
- Identify elements of successful media strategy.

VI. INVOLVING PARTNERS

This section will:

- Highlight the potential contributions of bilateral partners, multilateral organizations, non-governmental agencies, and civil society.
- Identify mechanisms for including partners in national and regional maritime strategy development and implementation.

Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Ministerial Conference
13-15 November 2006 - Cotonou, Benin
Outline for Draft Communiqué and Action Plan

CONCLUSION

This concluding section will:

- Reiterate strong political commitment for enhanced maritime safety and security in the sub-region.
- Commit all GoG states to successfully implementing the measures laid out in the appended matrix in a timely manner.
- Express GoG resolve to monitor progress and reconvene periodically at both technical and policy-maker levels.

Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea Ministerial Conference
13-15 November 2006 - Cotonou, Benin
Outline for Draft Communiqué and Action Plan

Draft Action Plan for Communiqué

Objective	TIME FRAME	Activity		Potential Support
		ACTIONS		
1. Establish and Facilitate Political Will	Immediate/ Near Term	a. Issue Presidential-level directive to develop and implement strategic vision for maritime safety and security. b. Establish inter-agency working group on maritime safety and security.		Bilateral stakeholders; multilateral agencies.
	Medium-/ Longer Term	c. Establish inter-agency coordination center (operational level).		
	Medium-/ Longer Term	a. Conduct study of MDA requirements and identify equipment, programs and policies necessary to achieve adequate MDA. b. Install AIS (or comparable systems) as part of comprehensive MDA effort. c. Develop information sharing agreements with regional and international partners. d. Implement comprehensive MDA strategy.		US Naval Forces in Europe; other stakeholders.
2. Improve Maritime Domain Awareness	Immediate/ Near Term	a. Conduct “gap analysis” to ascertain relevant national legislative framework. b. Ratify ISPS Code. c. Prepare appropriate draft legislation.		Intl Maritime Organization; Coast Guards of bilateral partners; DILS.
	Medium-/ Longer Term	d. Fully implement provisions of ISPS Code. e. Enact relevant legislation. f. Bolster and sensitize judicial system.		
	Immediate/ Near Term	a. Appoint, train and equip national focal points for regional collaboration. b. Develop an inventory of regional organizations and initiatives.		GoG Commission; MOWCA; Regional organizations — African Union; RECs; etc.
3. Strengthen Regulatory Frameworks				
4. Enhance Regional Coordination				

Draft Action Plan for Communiqué (cont'd.)

Objective	TIME FRAME	Activity		Potential Support
		ACTIONS		
5. Raise Public Awareness	Immediate/ Near Term Medium-/ Longer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Identify modalities for regional collaboration. d. Develop regional information sharing mechanism. 		Regional organizations; commercial entities; media;
	Medium-/ Longer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide and encourage media coverage for maritime safety and security efforts. b. Involve NGOs and community groups in the design, implementation and monitoring of maritime safety and security programs. c. Implement media strategy. Release regional documentary; at least 2 major news stories or newspaper articles in each GoG country. d. Establish interactive database and dedicated MSS website; major regional publication. e. Develop strategy for increasing public awareness about maritime safety and security. 		
6. Involve Partners	Immediate/ Near Term Medium-/ Longer Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and document various interested and involved “partners” in the sub-region. b. Develop mechanism to minimize duplication, and promote complementarity. c. Establish cooperative agreements with partners to support national and regional maritime activities. 		Bilateral partners; regional organizations.